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Date: July 12, 2000

By:

Kay L. Gaviglio

PATENT

Docket No. GC527

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

David A. Estell et al.

Serial No.: 09/060,872

Filed: April 15, 1998

For: Mutant Proteins having Lower
Allergenic Response in Humans
and Methods for Constructing,
Identifying and Producing such
Proteins

Group Art Unit: 1644

Examiner: Saunders, D

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Director for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned patent application, please enter the following amendment and consider the following remarks. For the convenience of the Examiner, the pending claims are attached as Appendix I.

In the Claims.

Please cancel claims 1-12, 15 and 16 and amend claims 13 and 14 as follows:

13. (Twice amended) A method of reducing the allergenicity of a protein comprising the steps of:
- (a) identifying a T-cell epitope in said protein; comprising contacting a peptide comprising said epitope with antigen presenting cells and